



Maricopa County
Animal Care and Control

HOT WEATHER TIPS



It gets very hot in Maricopa County in the summer months. Take care of your pets.

- NEVER leave your pet in a parked car. An animal's body temperature can rise in just seconds, causing heat-related problems or even death. Normal body temperature for dogs and cats is between 101 and 103 degrees F.
- Overheating (heat prostration) can kill an animal. Never leave an animal alone in a vehicle; even with the windows open, your vehicle can quickly become a furnace. Parking in shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day. When traveling, carry a gallon container filled with fresh, cold water. Give your pet frequent drinks. If the animal begins to pant, give him water immediately.
- Walk your pet on cooler surfaces to protect his feet from burning. If the pavement is too hot for you to hold your hand on for more than a few seconds, it's much too hot for your pet's paws.
- Don't force your pet to exercise after a meal in hot weather. Always exercise him in the cool of the early morning or evening.
- Keep walks to a minimum. The animal is much closer to the hot pavement and its body can heat up very quickly.
- Always provide plenty of adequate shade for an animal that is staying outside of the house for any length of time. A dog house, canopy or porch would be appropriate.

- Please be sensitive to old and overweight animals in hot weather. Dogs with heart or lung disease or snub-nosed breeds such as Bulldogs, Pekingese, Boston Terriers, Lhasa Apsos, and Shih Zus should be kept indoors in air-conditioning as much as possible. These animals have a difficult time regulating their body temperature.
- Keep a current license and identification tag on your dog or cat and consider micro-chipping as a means of permanent identification.
- Be alert for coolant (anti-freeze) leaking from your vehicle. Animals are attracted to the sweet taste of coolant and drinking just a small amount can cause death. Consider using an animal-friendly product that contains propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.
- A clean coat can help to prevent summer skin problems, so keep your dog or cat well groomed. Consult with your groomer or veterinarian to determine whether your pet would be more comfortable with a shorter haircut for the summer. If he has a heavy coat, shaving your dog's hair to a one-inch length will help prevent overheating. Don't shave a dog's hair down to the skin; this robs him of protection from the sun. A cat should be brushed frequently to keep his coat tangle-free. It is also wise to keep your cat(s) strictly indoors.

- Take your companion animal to the veterinarian in the spring or early summer for a checkup, including a test for heartworm. Have the doctor recommend a safe, effective flea and tick control program.
- Provide fresh water every day in a spill-proof container.

Signs Of Overheating:

If your pet exhibits one or more of the following symptoms, give him water right away.

- Open mouth panting. May see tongue hanging down.
- Face may have strained appearance.
- Animal may feel warm to the touch.

Signs of Heat Stroke:

If your pet shows one of the following signs of heat distress, cool him down slowly with a cool, wet rag or towel. Do not submerge him in water. Get the animal to a veterinarian immediately!

- Unconscious
- Unresponsive

DOGS IN PICK-UP TRUCKS

Don't make your dog travel unsecured in an open pick-up bed.

Warning!

- ❖ Dogs can't "hold on" like people.
- ❖ Sudden stops or starts can toss dogs out of a truck bed.

Why?

- ❖ Tied down dogs can jump out and hang themselves.
- ❖ Pickup beds become very hot and can burn the dog's feet.
- ❖ Dog can quickly dehydrate in hot weather.
- ❖ Wind at high speeds can irritate eyes and ears.
- ❖ Flying debris can injure.

What To Do!

- ❖ Put the dog in the cab.
- ❖ If you absolutely **must** transport your dog in the truck bed, place the animal inside a carrier secured to the walls of the truck.
- ❖ Leave the dog at home.